

MO HealthNet

“We have the opportunity this year to improve our health care safety net for vulnerable Missourians by increasing choice, improving quality and promoting preventative care.”

- Matt Blunt

2007 / Fiscal Year 2008 Priorities

2007 Legislative and Budget Priority

HealthNet: A Health Care Safety Net for Low-Income Missourians

Transforming and improving Missouri’s health care safety net for those who need it the most is a top priority for Governor Blunt in 2007.

*Governor Blunt’s goals for the new Medicaid program, **MO HealthNet**, include:*

- Focusing on health awareness and promoting wellness through preventative care, such as regular checkups.
- Encouraging the use of preventative care such as immunizations and screenings for early detection of disease.
- Transforming recipients into participants who have increased patient choice and increased access to information about their health care needs.
- Embracing evidence-based practices by incorporating technology to increase the amount and quality of information available in the decision making process, improve transparency, and incorporate measures that will decrease the possibility of waste, fraud, and abuse of the system.
- Paying health care professionals for performance, not just the number of tests and procedures.
- Incentivizing healthy behaviors for participants to improve their quality of life.

*Several of the principles in Governor Blunt’s **MO HealthNet** plan for low-income Missourians are:*

1. **Health Care Home.** Assist **MO HealthNet** participants in choosing a health care home and health care home coordinator that will focus on improving the health and wellness of individuals. The health care home does not restrict access to care, it partners with the participant to focus on wellness and prevention and allows the participant to make more informed medical decisions. Every **MO HealthNet** participant deserves a health care home. This is a radical departure from current practice.
2. **Health Risk Assessment.** Provide **MO HealthNet** participants with a health risk assessment. With this assessment, health care home coordinators will learn the critical information about the health care needs of each participant. This is an important step in early detection of disease and ensuring the participant is getting the right care.
3. **Electronic Plan of Care.** The plan of care is reviewed and tailored by the health care home coordinator together with the participant. The plan of care is individualized and serves as the basis for provider and patient decisions in finding ways to improve the participants’ health status.
4. **Health Net Plus.** Provide opportunities for **MO HealthNet** participants to access health services that were not offered under the old Medicaid system. **MO HealthNet Plus** would encourage participants to become more involved in their own health care and make reasonable attempts to improve their health.

5. **Evolution of the Provider Role.** MO HealthNet recognizes the critical role of health care home providers. Providers who choose to participate will have access to improved technology including evidence-based practices. MO HealthNet will also increase physician-related reimbursements and implement pay-for-performance measures to encourage healthy outcomes for MO HealthNet participants.
6. **Decreasing the Number of Uninsured.** MO HealthNet includes strategies to decrease the number of Missourians without access to health care by extending MO HealthNet coverage to the employed disabled and to youth aging out of the foster care system. MO HealthNet will also relax the definition of affordability for MC+ for Kids (SCHIP).

2007 Legislative and Budget Priority

Extending Affordable Care for Missouri's Uninsured

All Missourians should have access to affordable health insurance. Governor Blunt is committed to reducing the number of uninsured Missourians by investing in premium supplements for lower-income Missourians and creating a system for access to health care that will connect insurers and Missourians, particularly small employers who want to make an affordable investment in their employees. His solutions include:

1. Committing \$53 million, over two years, to invest in premium offsets for lower-income Missourians.
 - The state contribution will be \$20 million, split over the next two budget years.
 - To maximize these funds, the Governor has directed the Department of Social Services to work with the federal government to ensure the state contribution is eligible to draw federal funding, which will add \$33 million.
2. Providing incentives to employers to provide health insurance. Governor Blunt proposes legislation that will increase the income threshold for businesses to pay the state franchise tax from \$1 million to \$15 million if employers provide health care coverage to employees.
3. Calling a 2007 Health Care Summit to encourage cooperation among all stakeholders. Cooperation is essential to creating the marketplace that will connect Missourians and affordable coverage.
4. Governor Blunt supports creating a marketplace that will be the solution to the increasing number of uninsured Missourians. The new marketplace system will:
 - Allow employers and employees to pay insurance premiums before taxes.
 - Maximize affordability of insurance coverage by leveraging all funding sources available, including individual, employer, state, federal, and other.
 - Promote Missouri's association health plans and insurance plans created by small business groups.
 - Allow employee, instead of employer, ownership of health insurance so that coverage travels with an employee from job to job.
 - Remove administrative burdens on Missouri's small businesses and entrepreneurs.
 - Maximize the number of choices for the health insurance consumer.
 - Provide coverage for individuals with high health care needs.